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number of days lost per wage-earner) made in five different official investigations between 1885 and 1920. The highest average number of days lost is 63, the lowest 29; the other three investigations show figures falling between these extremes. The Conference Board, averaging the five estimates, foots up the table with 12 per cent as the "average idleness found per person employed," and 42 days as "the equivalent number of days lost per wage-earner per year." In its general summary at the end of the report the Board puts it at 42 days or 14 per cent of the "total working time" (page 86). One or the other, obviously, is incorrect. It is impossible to check up this discrepancy because the Board nowhere explains just how it deduces the number of days lost per wage-earner from the average percentage of idleness per wage-earner. In the same table the Board shows the "average idleness" reported by the United States Department of Commerce and Labor in its iron and steel investigation of 1910 to be "7 weeks or 13.5 per cent." The corresponding "equivalent days lost per wage-earner" are given in the table as 63, and referred to in the text as "about 63 working days of comparable length." The explanation, obviously, must lie in the very large amount of over-time worked in the iron and steel industry—over-time evidently equivalent, on the average, to more than two full weeks of over-time distributed over each 7-weeks period of straight time.

In its discussion of various causes and remedies the Board presents a balanced ration. Causes are listed as "internal" or "external," the internal causes being further subdivided into "personal" and "impersonal" factors, and external causes into those "of economic origin" and those "of political origin." Some official statistical evidence (from the same sources as indicated above, for the most part) is presented to show the proportion of unemployment, or idleness, rather, due to sickness, strikes, etc., and the proportion due to external causes of economic and political origin respectively. Figures are also given showing the proportions of separating employees who stopped voluntarily, were laid off, or were discharged. For the rest, the material consists of a somewhat brief and sketchy discussion of various causal factors. The discussion of remedies follows the same classification and, necessarily, is entirely descriptive. Some emphasis is placed upon personnel administration, improvement of employment facilities, reduction of transportation costs, encouragement of foreign trade, unemployment insurance, and public construction work. The report contains a number of interesting charts.

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PAUL F. BRISSENDEN

*Business Statistics: Their Compilation and Presentation*, by R. W. Holland  
O.B.E. London: Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Ltd. 1921. 85 pp.

Although for the most part it maintains the point of view of actual business management, this book is meager. It defines business statistics primarily as statistics obtained from the financial and cost accounts of a business. There is little recognition of the wide range of non-accounting statistical data now being obtained from both internal and external sources for practical guidance in business management. Even within the field of business statistics that have their origin

in accounts, no recognition is given to the development of uniform accounting or to such statistics as those for stock-turn and credit ratios. The explanation of the advantages in basing expense percentages on sales instead of on cost is weak. The use of daily comparisons for practical administrative purposes in many businesses is unduly belittled. Over one half the book is given over to an elementary explanation of the preparation of charts. Despite several good features in the chapters on charts, the dangers of using a base-line other than zero are not adequately recognized, and in explaining the use of circular area charts it is stated that the areas of two circles are proportional to their radii! The book is hardly safe for beginners, and it will provide few new ideas for experienced statisticians.

MELVIN T. COPELAND

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*Report on the Food Supply of the Port of New York District.* Report of the Port of New York Authority. Albany: J. B. Lyon Co. February, 1922. 74 pp.

This report fills a long-felt want of statisticians, economists, and public marketing officials, all of whom have on various occasions found themselves handicapped because they were unable to find in any one place the information contained in this pamphlet. The Port of New York Authority has collected in this report all available information regarding the annual and seasonal receipts of the most important commodities making up the food supply of the New York District.

For the purpose of ready reference a table on page 11 gives the calculated net receipts of those commodities which represent probably more than 90 per cent of the food consumed in the Port District annually. The extensiveness of this report may be indicated by listing the main groups of commodities for which general data as to receipts and sources of supplies are given in Section II. The groups are covered in the following order: milk and dairy products, flour and grains, meat and meat provisions, vegetables, fruits, fish, sugar, coffee, tea, dried fruits, dried beans and peas, nuts, vegetable oils and compounds, and lard.

A snapshot of the storage of foods within the Port District is presented in Section IV, which brings out the striking fact that the New York and New Jersey state authorities do not receive uniform reports on foods in cold storage. In fact, the statistics showing the New Jersey holdings were so meager that no total for cold storage holdings in the Port of New York District could be given. The New York State Department of Farms and Markets was able to give details on the various kinds of meats and poultry, whereas the New Jersey authorities merely classified meats and poultry broadly. The table on cold storage holdings clearly shows the need for a better coördination of records of supplies of foodstuffs on hand.

On looking into the holdings of food in dry storage warehouses, the Port Authority found that no agency, either public or private, kept records of these holdings. In fact, no public agency at the time this survey was started had even an up-to-date list of dry storage food-warehouses.

The statistician and the student of food-marketing problems will find it most profitable to devote their time and attention to a study of Appendix A, where they will find data on which the statements in Section II were based. Table I